

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 AF-06 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02

SCCT-01 OC-05 CCO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 USSS-00 /102 W

----- 093321

O 251840Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0703

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANAA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2149

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SA

SUBJ: KING FAISAL'S DEATH - SITREP JIDDA AND RIYADH

REF : JIDDA 2135

1. AMBASSADOR AKINS, WHO IS IN RIYADH, STATES CITY

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APPEARS COMPLETELY NORMAL, SHOPS OPEN, CONSTRUCTION AND

OTHER WORKERS ON JOBS. THERE ARE NO MOURNING CROWDS IN THE STREETS, AND NONE ARE EXPECTED. THE WAHABI TRADITION STILL HOLDS: WHEN THE SOUL DEPARTS, THE BODY IS BUT DUST, TO BE INTERRED WITHOUT BOTHER. SENATOR MCGOVERN WHO JUST RETURNED FROM RIYADH VIA RSAF C-130 EVENING MARCH 25, WAS STRUCK BY THE MATTER-OF-FACT WAY IN WHICH THE SAUDIS WHOM HE ENCOUNTERED AND SAW HAD TAKEN THE NEWS OF KING'S DEATH. NO ONE SEEMED UNDER EMOTIONAL STRAIN AND MOST SPOKE ABOUT IT IN TERMS OF FATALISTIC RESIGNATION.

2. FOREGOING IS TRUE ALSO FOR JIDDA. WE NOTE LARGER NUMBER OF POLICE ON DUTY, BUT TRAFFIC, AND ACTIVITY IN DOWNTOWN SHOPS NEITHER MORE NOR LESS THAN THAT OF ORDINARY DAYS.

3. SAUDI OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED AGAIN TO EMBASSY THAT KING'S ASSASSINATION WAS ACT OF A SINGLE UNBALANCED PERSON AND HAD NO RPT NO WIDER POLITICAL OVERTURES.
AKINS

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